



**Patrick Cannon, Director
Michigan Commission for the Blind**

With many years of service in management, public information, broadcasting, disability rights, and advocacy, Pat Cannon brought a unique blend of experiences and abilities with him when he was appointed state director of the Michigan Commission for the Blind in 1997. Previously, Pat was Director of the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns for ten years where he was instrumental in gaining passage of the 1990 amendments to the Michigan Handicappers' Civil Rights Act and advocated for enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

He is a member of the National Rehabilitation Association, the Council of State Administrators in Vocational Rehabilitation and serves on the Executive Board of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind. He also serves on the Capital Area Transportation Authority's Board of Directors. In 1995, Pat was appointed by President Clinton to the U.S. Access Board, the independent federal regulatory agency whose mission is accessibility for people with disabilities, serving as the Board's Chair in 1997 and 1998. He was named Disability Policy Advisor to Governor Jennifer M. Granholm in 2003 and as her State ADA Coordinator in 2004.

One of his greatest thrills was being asked by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm to throw the first pitch at the Tigers' home opener on April 4, 2005, and he was the first blind person to do so. As Pat likes to say, "The Tigers have never lost when I've pitched."